

10-144

Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention

Department of Health & Human Services

Chapter 294

Rules Governing Qualifications of Local Health Officers

1. Purpose: The purpose of these rules is to define the qualification standards for local health officers pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §451(2).
2. Definitions:
 - A. Department means the Department of Health and Human Services.
 - B. Department Districts are Aroostook (Aroostook County); Penquis (Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties); Downeast (Hancock and Washington Counties); MidCoast (Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and Waldo Counties); Central (Kennebec and Somerset Counties); Western (Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties); Cumberland (Cumberland County); and York (York County). These districts are formed through a geographical grouping of counties to provide a framework or structure for the Department to conduct its business.
 - C. Local Health Officer means a public health official who shall be appointed by the municipal officers of a municipality pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §451(1).
 - D. Maine CDC means the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the Department of Health and Human Services.
3. Qualifications of Local Health Officers. The local health officer must be qualified by education, training and experience in the field of public health or a combination as determined by standards established by these rules no later than June 1, 2008. A person who is employed as a local health officer who is not qualified by education, training or experience must meet qualification standards adopted by department rule no later than six months after appointment. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a person may be appointed and serve as a local health officer if granted a waiver by the Department pursuant to Section 7.
4. Training. The Maine CDC will provide six-hour trainings at least annually in each of eight Department of Health and Human Services Districts. Current or proposed local health officers will not be charged for participation in these trainings.

The Maine CDC may offer additional trainings using different modalities such as the Web and telecommunication technologies in order to address the training needs of present or proposed local health officers.

Final Adoption Date: May 3, 2008

5. Training Attendance. Local Health Officers must complete at least one six-hour training every three years to meet the required Local Health Officer qualifications.

6. Training Objectives. The trainings will meet at least the following objectives. Participants will:

- Be familiar with the authorities, duties, secondary authorities, intent, and parameters of the Local Health Officer statutes;
- Know how to address common situations faced by Local Health Officers; and
- Learn about emerging health issues that may affect the work of Local Health Officers.

7. Waiver of Requirements. The Department may grant exemptions from the qualification standards established by these rules. Local Health Officers may apply to the Maine CDC for exemptions from these standards. An exemption may be granted in the event the Department determines that an individual presents with either the education, training and experience of a local health officer or other similar position, or with familiarity with the responsibilities of local health officers, which is the functional equivalency of the qualification standards established by these rules.

8. Grace Period. In addition to the foregoing, the Maine CDC may grant a grace period for up to six months after a local health officer has been appointed to his or her position in which the satisfy the qualification standards established by these rules; provided however, in no event may a person be appointed or employed as a local health officer on or after June 1, 2009, without either satisfying the Department's qualification standards or receiving an exemption from the qualification standards pursuant to Section 7.